EQUALITY COLORADO

The EQUAL Times

The Newsletter of Equality Colorado — February 1994
P.O. Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203
(303) 839-5540 — Volume 2, No. 1

District Judge snubs Amendment 2, state to appeal

On December 14, 1993, Denver District Court Judge Jeffrey Bayless ruled that Amendment 2 is unconstitutional because it violates the "fundamental right of an identifiable group to participate in the political process." The decision was handed down one year after Colorado voters approved the amendment by a 53-47% margin.

Amendment 2 would have prohibited the state or any city from enacting or enforcing laws that protect lesbians, gay men or bisexuals from discrimination. In his decision, Judge Bayless concluded that the State failed to provide a compelling state interest for Amendment 2 to become law.

Bayless also refused to rule that homosexuals are a suspect class. According to Jean Dubofsky, lead attorney on the case, the court found "that since no other court in the country had found gays and lesbians were a suspect class, it was not going to find that."

In the 16-page opinion, Bayless also struck down some of CFV's most outrageous claims. "The evidence presented does not satisfy this court that there is a militant gay aggression in this state which endangers the state's political functions." Furthermore, Bayless stated "Seemingly, if one wished to promote family values, action would be taken that is pro-family rather than anti some other group."

> ***"Seemingly, if one wished to promote family values, action would be taken that is pro-family rather than anti some other group."***
>
> -Judge Jeffrey Bayless

Activists around the country were quick to declare the decision a victory, and leaders from Boycott Colorado and New York Boycott Colorado suspended the Colorado boycott. "We think Amendment 2 has been damaging to Colorado, and it's time to heal those wounds," said Duncan Osborn of NYBC.

Other activists claim that the Amendment 2 decision only offers temporary relief in the fight against anti-gay ballot measures around the country. Radical right-wing groups are actively working to put anti-gay initiatives on ballots in 12 states and are using the Amendment 2 campaign as a model for success.

The Amendment 2 decision could very well act as a persuasive precedent for future court actions. A federal judge in Cincinnati referred to the Amendment 2 case when he issued an injunction against an anti-gay law passed by Cincinnati voters on November 2, 1993.

Attorney General Gale Norton plans to appeal the decision to the Colorado Supreme Court where the court is expected to uphold the lower court's ruling. In July 1993, the Colorado high court upheld the injunction placed on Amendment 2 and said that it would most likely find it unconstitutional because it infringes on "the fundamental right to participate equally in the political process." Most legal experts agree that Amendment 2 is dead unless the U.S. Supreme Court decides to take the case after a ruling from the Colorado Supreme Court.

CFV Chairman Will Perkins accused Governor Roy Romer of working behind the scenes to make sure Amendment 2 was declared unconstitutional. When asked to provide details to support his claim, Perkins said he would "when the time is right."

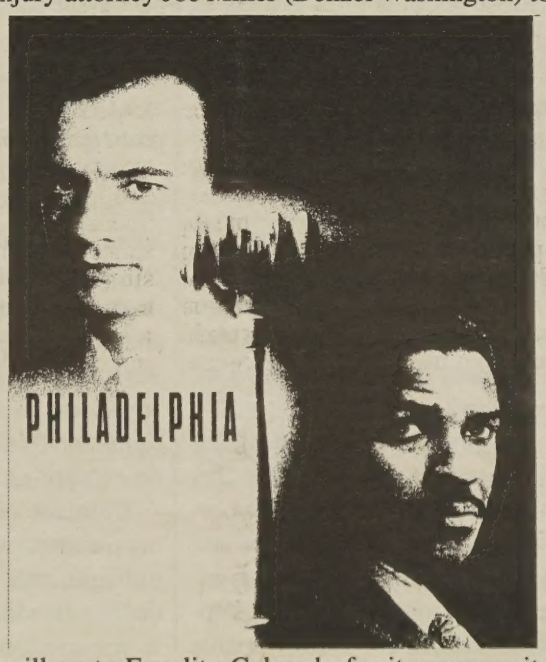
Perkins also said that CFV does not plan to introduce another ballot measure until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on the law. In the past, Perkins has said that if Amendment 2 is ultimately declared unconstitutional, his group will seek to put another anti-gay measure on the ballot.

See Page 4 for CFV News

Philadelphia event creates brotherly, sisterly love

Equality Colorado got the new year off to a great start with the special advanced screening of the movie *Philadelphia* on January 11th at the Continental Theatre. Over 800 people attended the benefit screening.

Philadelphia is a powerful drama in which hot-shot lawyer Andrew Beckett (Tom Hanks), fired from his law firm when he develops AIDS, hires personal-injury attorney Joe Miller (Denzel Washington) to help him win his job back.



TriStar Pictures offered the movie to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force as a fundraiser in Denver, Detroit and Seattle. Equality Colorado and NGLTF were joint benefactors for the Denver screening.

Priority Pharmacy, one of the nation's largest overnight home delivery prescription services specializing in HIV/AIDS medication, sponsored a pre-screening reception at the Denver Southeast Marriot for premiere and reserved ticketholders. Among the 275 guests at the reception were Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, Denver City Councilwomen Happy Haynes, Cathy Reynolds and Joyce Foster, Former State Senator Pat Pascoe, Josie Heath and several people who are considering a run for political office in 1994. NGLTF Executive Director Peri Jude Radecic was the special guest of the evening..

The event raised close to $27,000, 35% of which will go to Equality Colorado for its community organizing and public awareness projects. Equality Colorado and NGLTF would like to thank the host committee and all those people who attended the event and made it a tremendous success.

If you didn't catch the advanced screening, *Philadelphia* is currently playing in theatres across the country. As a side note, during the first weekend of its nation-wide release, *Philadelphia* was the number one box office hit, bringing in $13 million dollars. Perhaps these figures will translate into more movies that deal with AIDS and homophobia.

Equal Times new look

With a new year beginning, The Equal Times has undergone a face-lift .

Starting with this issue, our newsletter will be printed on newsprint in a tabloid format. This new form gives us more room for more information for you. Printing on newsprint is also less expensive than printing on the traditional 60 pound paper, so we will be able to print more newsletters and reach more people with up-to-date information on lesbian/gay/bisexual issues in our state and nation. We hope you enjoy the new look!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 21 Community Forum 1st Unitarian Church

March 2 Legislative Information Day @ State Capitol, 8:00 a.m.

March 6 Romanovsky & Phillips, event for Equality and CLIP.

April 5 Party Caucuses
Call 839-5540 for details

Networking News

Ground Zero kicks off visibility campaign

Ground Zero will kick off its multi-media "We Are All Family" campaign for Colorado Springs in February 1994.

In 1994, Ground Zero's strategy will be centered around the idea that WE ARE ALL FAMILY, and everyone deserves equal rights. Ground Zero will also stress the importance of understanding the national agenda of the Radical Right, and work on countering the lies put out by the right, especially those concerning the lesbian/gay/bisexual community. Ground Zero will attempt to combat the myths of the Radical Right through education and outreach to three areas: the G/L/B community, people of color communities, and Colorado Springs at large.

For more information, please contact Ground Zero at (719) 635-6086.

NABWMT to meet in Washington D.C.

The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) will be hosting their 14th Annual Convention from July 16-24, 1994, in Washington, D.C. Over 200 people are expected to take part in this event which will be housed at the beautiful Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA.

The '94 Convention theme "Breaking the Chains of ISMS" will be addressed throughout the week via workshops, guest speakers, and cultural/social events. Convention '94 will explore the many ways that the gay and lesbian community can work to overcome racism, ageism, sexism, and homophobia. Powerful guest speakers and workshop facilitators are being scheduled to assist in this task.

For more information, please contact the NABWMT at (202) 462-3599 or (800) NA4-BWMT.

Freedom network will "fight the right"

The Colorado Freedom Network is a non-partisan, multi-issue coalition of organizations who share a commitment to diversity and tolerance on issues such as education, reproductive choice, equal justice and religious freedom. The Network is committed to protect these principles of pluralism from religious and political absolutists.

The mission of the Network is to educate, inform, and provide research to the general public on issues dealing with the activities of religious right affiliated entities in the state of Colorado. The Network serves as a clearing house of information for member organizations, and the media, and as a vehicle for developing joint strategy to counter the activities of this extreme political movement.

Steering committee members represent many different groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, Colorado Council of Churches, Colorado Republicans for Choice, Colorado Democrats, Colorado Education Association, Equality Colorado, Colorado NARAL, Colorado ACLU, and People for the American Way.

EC forum focuses on benefits, campaigns

Equality Colorado's February community forum, "Doing More in '94" will be held Monday, February 21, 1994, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1400 Lafayette in Denver.

The forum will focus on lesbian and gay grassroots organizing around several issues in 1994. Khadija Haynes, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Board of Directors, will discuss the importance of why lesbians and gay men should run for political office and win. Mary Celeste, an attorney and lesbian activist, will address approaches to achieving domestic partner benefits in the workplace. Representatives from Equality Colorado and the Colorado Human Rights Action Council will also discuss their organizing and/or plans for 1994.

Audience will have an opportunity to raise questions and concerns during a 40-minute question and answer period.

This event is free and wheelchair accessible.

Equality mailing list policy explained

People often ask us about our mailing list policy, wanting to know if their name will be sold, shared or given away. This becomes especially important with an organization such as Equality Colorado which is dealing with sensitive and sometimes volatile societal issues. We want to respond to some of these questions. In **short, our policy is that we absolutely never sell our list or give it away to mailhouses or other organizations.** Your confidence in us is important and we respect your need for confidentiality as well as your need for less "junk" mail.

What we occasionally do is allow other groups to use part or all of our list for an event that is consistent with our goals. We allow these groups to send their materials to our mailhouse which then mails directly to you so that the group using the list never even sees your name. On a very rare occasion, we have given a small number of mailing labels to another group to use with the understanding that they are getting them for one-time use only. An example of this in the past year was a conference being put on by the Boulder SafeHouse on organizing to respond to the religious right.

We are aware that in the past year people have received unwanted solicitations which they are not sure why they are getting them. We think that this has happened because mailhouses and/or organizations have gone to the secretary of state's office and copied the campaign contribution list from the Equal Protection Campaign. This is information that the campaign was required to file according the Campaign Reform Act. However, use of this list for solicitation purposes is illegal. As a non-profit corporation, Equality Colorado does not have to file contributer lists at the Secretary of State's office, so we don't expect a similar issue to arise. It remains a difficult situation, because your contributions are important not only to Equality Colorado and similar organizations but also to future campaigns should this be needed again. All groups in our community depend on the generosity of everyone for survival and it is unfortunate that our privacy is sometimes compromised because of the dependence of businesses on direct mail solicitations. **Again, Equality Colorado's policy is to never sell our mailing list.**

Precinct caucuses scheduled for April 5th

Colorado NARAL organizing precinct captain project

Precinct caucus meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 5 from 7-9 pm in each precinct throughout the state.

Your voice is important in this part of our political process. Each party will be holding a caucus in each precinct and you can participate in the caucus held in the precinct in which you are registered to vote. You must be registered as a Democrat or a Republican to participate in that party's caucus.

Don't miss this opportunity to make sure that your voice is heard, because it is through this process that party nominations are made, and delegates to the county and state conventions are selected. We need to ensure that candidates are selected who will support civil rights and freedom for all people, no exceptions.

Colorado NARAL is organizing precinct captains in key races throughout the state where reproductive freedom is a major issue. If you are interested in being a pro-choice precinct captain, please contact Beth Ganz of Colorado NARAL at 831-1973.

Equality Colorado will also be monitoring electoral issues and providing information and voter education about candidates' positions with respect to lesbian, gay and bisexual civil rights issues. For more information, contact us at 839-5540.

The Equal Times is the quarterly newsletter of Equality Colorado. Equality Colorado is a non-profit, state-wide, grassroots Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual civil rights advocacy organization that organizes, educates and demonstrates for full Lesbian, Gay and Bisexualcivil rights, social justice, and equality through research, outreach and public awareness.

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From Our Desk

Equality running strong, seeking people for board of directors

EQUALITY GRANTED NON-PROFIT STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service notified Equality Colorado in January that we have approval of our application for 501(c)(3) non-profit status. This is an important step for us in moving forward as a viable grassroots civil rights organization.

Contributions to Equality Colorado are tax-deductible dating back to January 19, 1993. This makes fundraising for our work much easier and more likely to be successful. We appreciate everyone's support during the past year of growth and change and your faith in us despite not having received our non-profit status until now. We look forward to continuing to work with everyone in the coming year.

GRANTS AND GIFTS

The money we raise for our programs reflects clarity of mission, and we at Equality Colorado are grateful for the support of several organizations which have provided generous funding for our work:

Capitol Hill United Ministries, $1,000 to print *The Neighborhood Voice*.

The Unitarian Universalist Fund for a Just Society, $8,000 for religious outreach. This was the Fund's highest grant awarded nationally.

The Hunt Alternatives Fund, $6,000 outright for religious outreach and a challenge to match up to $6,000 in funding from religious institutions over the next twelve months.

Artemis Records, $300 from receipts for a concert featuring Sherri Hammons and the Dead Sinatras.

Tim Gill's challenge to major donors. Tim will match any amount over $500 through October, 1994, in a gift from a donor. Also, Tim and Digital Queers donated a new Apple Macintosh Quadra 610 to our office. The computer will be used for electronic mail national networking through America On-line, and regular office duties.

Louise Ninneman, The Centers at University of Colorado at Denver, for technical assistance in facilitating our strategic planning process.

First Unitarian Church, Denver, for providing accessible space for our community forums.

Walter Rosenberry III, for a major gift to support operating expenses.

VOICES OF FAITH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is studying human sexuality and is making sense of a national report's recommendations that the church recognize and bless unions of lesbian and gay couples.

A group of Baptist ministers enrolled in an advanced program at Denver Seminary wants to meet with queer Christians during their urban study immersion.

A Park Hill church wants to make sure that its community outreach is attentive to the needs of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

"Voices of Faith for Human Rights" speaks to and with religious communities about the realities of the lives of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. Members of "Voices of Faith" regularly speak with adult and youth groups from churches, synagogues, circles, and seminaries, and are organizing resource materials that can be used in religious settings to emphasize the importance of keeping civil rights and inclusivity issues in the forefront of all religious settings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Over the last few months, Equality Colorado has been thoughtfully and carefully expanding its Board of Directors. Equality Colorado is committed to seating a Board with unique individual perspective, one with diversity of thought, culture, ability, and geography.

Equality Colorado is a statewide grassroots lesbian, gay, and bisexual civil rights advocacy organization that organizes, educates, and demonstrates for social justice and full equality through research, outreach, and public awareness. We value working side by side with other organizations with compatible goals, and know that building alliances enriches all. Justice and equality are possible when many are involved and unafraid to work hard.

Individuals who desire to contribute their positive energy and time toward social justice and full equality, and who don't want to burn out doing it, should contact Equality Colorado. Board vacancies ought to be filled in the next two months so that Equality Colorado can continue its work effectively. You must be willing to commit to one Board meeting per month and to work on a committee between Board meetings. Successful applicants will have a sense of pride and humor.

Call Chris Moore at 839-5540.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers provide the support that has shaped Equality Colorado and positioned us to meet the challenges of the future.

Volunteer opportunities include: office help during weekdays, including data entry and preparation for mailings; working with the Research Initiative and the 1994 Voter Education project; joining the fundraising committee; representing our issues in neighborhood groups and to people you know; coordinating our presence at activities such as People's Fair, Pride Fest, and other events; and whatever you might want to do.

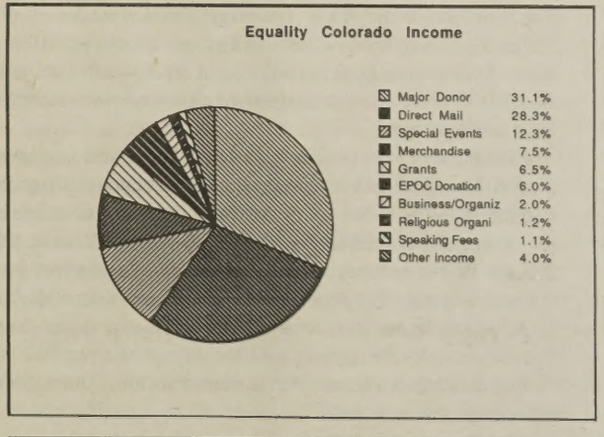
Contact Chris at 839-5540 to inquire about volunteering.

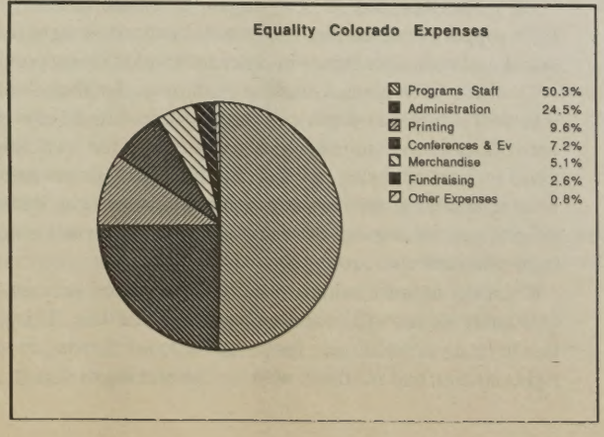
1993 Equality Colorado Financial Report

The past year has been a time of growth for Equality in our first full year of operation. We think it is important that you know how your financial support has been spent and where it has come from.

Opening Balance: January 1, 1993: $13,031.50
Closing Balance: December 31, 1993: $6438.55

Income:	
Merchandise (Buttons/Bumperstickers/T-shirts, etc.)	$6864.31
Business/Organizational Donations	$1815.53
Direct Mail Donations	$26054.69
Special Events	$11304.10
Individual Solicitation	$28633.52
Religious Organization Donations	$1121.00
Grants	$6000.00
EPOC Donation	$5500.00
Speaking Fees	$1050.00
Other Income	$3702.40
TOTAL	**$92045.55**
Expenses:	
Programs Staff	$49643.01
Administrative Costs	$24131.98
Fundraising Expenses	$2574.03
Printing (newsletter/educational brochures)	$9444.98
Conferences and Events	$7064.58
Merchandise	$5036.83
Other Expenses	$743.09
TOTAL	**$98638.50**





CFV News...!

Whether it's year end or the beginning of the new year, Colorado for Family Values has been aggressively pushing their anti-civil rights agenda at home and abroad.

In October, we exposed the fact that CFV donated $75,000 to an anti-gay group in Cincinnati to help push the passage of Measure 3, a proposed initiative approved by voters in November that repealed "sexual orientation" from the city's human rights ordinance. Final campaign reports from the Cincinnati Board of Elections reveal that CFV gave a total of $390,100 to Citizens for Community Values, the group that sponsored the anti-gay initiative. CFV's contribution constituted 79% of the $491,773 raised by the Ohio group for promoting the law.

When asked about the contribution, CFV Chairman Will Perkins said that his group did make the donation and that CFV will continue to contribute financial resources to groups in other states who are pressing anti-gay laws.

A group that could possibly receive CFV money is the Austin-based Concerned Texans. In November 1993, *Preferred Stock* writer Kathy Deitsch reported that CFV Executive Director Kevin Tebedo visited Austin to assist the group in launching a campaign to repeal that city's new domestic partners law. Tebedo's visit influenced the board of commissioners in neighboring Williamson County to vote against a tax abatement package for a new Apple Computer manufacturing facility because Apple offers health benefits to domestic partners, including lesbian and gay partners. After Apple announced that it would move its operation to another state if the tax break was not restored, the board reversed its decision and offered nearly $1 million in tax incentives, a plan that is nearly identical to the original offer.

We're more than a team. We're more than an organization. We're a movement and a crusade."

-Bill Armstrong at the first CFV dinner.

On the homefront, an administrative law judge ruled that CFV violated the Campaign Reform Act when it soliticited funds for its Amendment 2 Defense Fund. CFV's fund was created to oppose any measure that would repeal or replace Amendment 2. A complaint filed by Daniel Brewer-Ward charged that CFV broke the law when they raised money to oppose his measure, which would have repealed Amendment 2, without filing as a political committee and without filing regular financial disclosure reports with the Colorado Secretary of State. The judge ruled that CFV unwittingly broke the law, but still must file as a political committee and disclose all of their 1993 contributions. Unless an appeal is filed within 30 days after the judge's decision, CFV must tell the citizens of this state where they're getting their money from.

CFV held its first annual CFV Dinner on Saturday, January 22 at the Red Lion Inn in Colorado Springs. The banquet program included a salute to the Boy Scouts of America, a special time of recognition for pastors and church leaders, and a key-note address by former U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong, who serves on CFV's advisory board.

Armstrong said that no matter what the courts do with Amendment 2, the people in our state who oppose lesbians and gay men will ultimately prevail. Armstrong told the group of over 700 people that "We're more than a team. We're more than an organization. We're a movement and a crusade."

CFV also unveiled its new slogan, "Promote Morality." Several CFV supporters noted that CFV should expand its agenda into other social and economic issues in order to broaden its support.

In 1994, CFV plans to hold a conference for their Area Leaders who will conduct in-depth conversations on how a better grassroots network can be set in place to assist people at the local level. Other plans include opposing any law that benefits lesbians and gay men, helping similar groups in other states design anti-gay initiative campaigns, and developing other organizing manuals and action kits for right-wing activists around the country and state.

With their national notoriety and local electoral success, Colorado for Family Values will be around for quite some time. This year promises to be an eventful year for people who are flowing in to the civil rights stream, and for those who are threatening to dam it.

Bruce proposes 'reform,' opposes culture

Doug Bruce, the man who gave us tax limitation under Amendment 1 in 1992, has qualified his "Election Reform II" measure for the 1994 ballot. The measure will be Amendment 12 on the '94 ballot.

The ballot proposal, if approved by voters would: allow state elections on any subject in odd-numbered years; allow increases in elected officials' compensation above 1988 levels only by voter approval or by inflation after 1994; limit the future participation of elected officials in state and local government pension plans without voter approval; enact a tax credit for individuals who make cash gifts to new campaign committees that pledge to take donations only from human beings; limit contributions that political candidates, elected officials, or their campaign committees may accept from specified sources; restrict public resources used in ballot issue campaigns; require a mandatory fine for willful violations of the campaign contribution, public expenditure, and petition provisions; extend petition powers to residents of all political jurisdictions; allow judges to be recalled and bar recalled judges from any future judicial position; limit petition ballot titles to 75 words and to revise other procedural and substantive petition provisions for the initiative, referendum, and recall; limit the annual number of bills that governments may exclude from referendum by petition; limit the reasons for invalidating petition signatures; repeal changes in state petition laws or regulations adopted after 1988 unless voter-approved; to prevent elected officials from changing certain voter-approved laws; and authorizes individual, class action, or district suits to enforce the amendment.

A group called Balance Colorado has vowed to fight the measure on the grounds that the proposal is not just campaign reform, but a complete overhaul of the democratic process.

Bruce has also announced his intention to oppose Denver's Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. The district was created when Denver metro voters approved a one-tenth of 1% tax (1 cent for every $10) in 1988 to support cultural facilities such as The Denver Zoo, museums, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts and other local theatre organizations If the tax is not renewed, these facilities' futures, among several others, will be in jeopardy.

Anti-choice group launches petition drive

An Arvada-based anti-choice group formally launched a petition drive on January 18 to place a constitutional amendment on the November 1994 ballot that would require teens to notify their parents before they obtain an abortion.

Calling it "the most modest measure in the country," Pat Miller, a former Colorado state legislator and director of People for Parental Involvement, stated that the law requires that only one parent be notified 24 hours before the abortion procedure and that consent is not required. Most of the details of the proposed law would be left up to the state legislature, but the amendment would contain a statement that the state "recognize, encourage and promote the involvement of parents in medical decisions affecting their children."

People for Parental Involvement must collect 49,279 valid signatures in order to qualify for the ballot. The Colorado National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League said that it will oppose the measure because it "increases health risks to women of all ages."

PSC seeking 'two-thirds vote' amendment

People for a Stronger Colorado has officially launched an effort to place a constitutional amendment on the 1994 ballot that would require two-thirds voter approval on constitutional referenda.

Currently, the Colorado state legislature must garner a two-thirds majority in both houses to refer changes in the state constitution to the voters. A simple majority vote of the electorate is all that is needed to change the constitution.

In the past, many legislators have charged that the state constitution is too easy to change and that a stricter policy would allow the constitution to keep focused on public policy issues in which the public overwhelmingly agrees.

In 1993, People for a Stronger Colorado led an unsuccessful petition drive to overturn Amendment 2 and replace it with a state-wide lesbian and gay civil rights law.

For more information about circulating petitions, call 355-7530.

Health Care Reform:

How might President Clinton's Health Security Act of 1994 affect our communities?

Health reform has been a major issue the past year as President Clinton and Congress have set about to tackle what often seems to be an insurmountable problem.

Health care often seems like an insurmountable problem to health care consumers who don't have insurance, can't afford to pay for their health care even when they do have insurance or generally feel like the existing system doesn't serve any of us well enough.

The current discussions about the different proposals are often hard to understand and don't give us a great deal of detail. The reform plans that have been proposed vary from ones that basically keep things as they are to a complete overhaul such as the single payer system proposal. With a single payer system, individuals would pay for their health care premiums primarily through payroll taxes, and the systems would be administered by states directly to individuals and providers under federal guidelines.

The plan that is probably the most talked about and on which health advocates are working the most is the President's plan, which relies on a system known as Managed Competition. The underlying principle of this is that if consumers have a choice of health plans, then these plans will want to offer the lowest premiums for the best service. The plans will have a monthly premium and annual limits on how much consumers will pay out of pocket.

To administer this plan a new structure called Health Alliances will represent consumers in negotiating for rates and service. The number of Health Alliances in any given state depends on the population. The Alliances will tell consumers what plans are available in their area, what the premiums are for each plan, register consumers for the health plan of their choice and collect the monthly premiums.

There are certainly some good points to this plan over what we have now. There is a single payer option for states so that they are not necessarily locked into the managed competition system. Employers are mandated to provide health insurance to employees and there is a standard comprehensive health benefits package which includes more mental health and substance abuse benefits than most plans currently provide. There are cost containment provisions as well as consumer involvement that includes a grievance system.

The reform package also includes removing pre-existing condition exclusions, lifetime caps and experience ratings. In many ways, this plan could work better than our current existing system.

There are however, several critical points that need to be addressed for this system to truly be accessible to everyone, including lesbians, gays and bisexuals, low and middle income people, rural residents, immigrants, prisoners and people with serious health problems. Some of the key points needing to be addressed are:

Anti-Discrimination: Sexual orientation is not included in the federal mandates that this system would have to follow. Including sexual orientation in anti-discrimination language would protect both consumers and lesbian, gay and bisexual providers and consumers

Family Definition: The current definition of family includes only single parents with children or married couples with or without children. This automatically leaves out lesbian or gay couples and families from full and equitable inclusion. It also leaves out other non-traditional family units that often form because of life, cultural or other circumstances.

It also could severely limit the ability of youth to access services without parental consent or knowledge, thus, making access to mental health or substance abuse counseling, or STD, HIV or pregnancy related services much more difficult or impossible.

The current definition might limit corporations, universities and state and local governments from extending health insurance to domestic partners, which would, in effect, eliminate these benefits that we have worked so hard to obtain.

Limits Leading to Redlining: Because Health Alliances will be able to serve a limited number of people and are geographically determined, there is serious potential for geographic redlining and enrollment limitations. These limitations could effectively discriminate against people with HIV/AIDS, other disabilities and poor people.

Because of the geographic limitations, there is also the potential that areas with a higher percentage of people with serious illnesses would have to pay significantly higher premiums.

Community Based Providers: Community based providers are oftentimes clinics that serve specialized populations (such as women, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, or people living with AIDS) or operate in low-income areas (i.e. serving immigrants, migrant workers, or housing projects).

Individuals who receive health care through a community based provider would have to contract their health care plans through an "essential community provider."

The president's plan allows two ways for determining whether an existing community based clinic or service can be categorized as an essential community provider. The first way is if the provider is federally funded, and the second way is if the Secretary of Health certifies the provider as functioning in a designated "health professional shortage area" or serving "medically underserved persons."

Many community based providers are not federally funded, and thus, may not be categorized as an "essential community provider," may not be in areas determined to be "health professional shortage areas," or their primary consumer population may not be considered a "medically underserved population." As a result, those people who receive care from community based providers may not be covered under the president's health care reform plan, and those community services may not be able to survive when insurance companies can no longer contract with them.

Restrictive Definitions: There are many areas of the plan which offer very restrictive definitions regarding who can access which services and how. Many of these definitions would severely limit people with disabilities, lesbians, gays and bisexuals, people of color and low-income individuals.

Some of these definitions and exclusions include: the option for providers to raise religious objections to serving people based on their personal characteristics; age restrictions for women seeking pap smears; defining language for sexually transmitted diseases; the lack of inclusive language around discrimination issues (i.e. in some places race, gender, sexual orientation and age are completely left out); and, essential community providers may not be eligible to contract for all of the services they provide. Rather they will be limited to only federally funded services, leaving out some essential services.

In sum, there are a lot of points which need to be addressed in the Managed Competition model for it to be truly equitable in serving the needs of all people. At the present time, with the current definitions and language, there are areas where lesbians, gays and bisexuals, poor and lower middle income people, immigrants (undocumented or documented), women, people of color, rural residents and youth may not have truly universal access to services.

Although this is a step in the right direction in an overhaul of our health care system, there is still more that needs to be done. We must continue to educate ourselves about how various plans will affect us and our communities as these plans continue to evolve and head toward Congress for approval.

Be informed and make sure your voice is heard.

This article was made possible in part by a summary prepared by Marj Plumb, Health Policy Director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington D.C.

1993
The Year in Review

Gays in the military, boycotts, anti-gay initiatives, and the March on Washington were all part of 1993, a year in which lesbian/gay/bisexual issues were on the minds of nearly every American citizen.

The year was a busy one for Equality Colorado, as we defined our mission and found our way to serve the lesbian/gay/bisexual community in Colorado and abroad. From the day Equality Colorado was incorporated with the secretary of state's office in January 1993, Equality has been hard at work developing programs in order to reach out to different communities and discuss homophobia and civil rights. Here is a look at Equality Colorado's accomplishments in 1993.

Equality Colorado began work with the People for the American Way National Religious Right Response Network, and the Research Initiative was created to develop comprehensive research on the religious right and to expose their anti-democratic agenda. Much of this information was used to deliver presentations to various conferences, conventions, civic action groups, and school classrooms.

The Research Initiative monitored Colorado for Family Values, their community action seminars, and other activities. We exposed CFV's involvement in other campaigns around the country, including the $390,000 they gave to a Cincinnati group to help promote an anti-gay law that was passed by city voters in November.

Equality didn't have money to give to people in other states, but we did provide 15 states with materials to help them in their battles against anti-gay initiatives. The Colorado Amendment 2 experience is very unique and these materials cannot be found anywhere else in the country. We are a valuable resource.

Lawyers who worked on the Amendment 2 trial also used several research items from Equality Colorado for their cross-examination of CFV Chairman Will Perkins and CFV co-founders Kevin Tebedo and Tony Marco.

Several groups and individuals attempted to repeal or replace Amendment 2 with "compromise proposals" at the ballot box or in the state legislature. In April, Equality staff members testified before the Senate State Affairs Committee on a bill, sponsored by Senator Regis Groff,that would have sent Amendment 2 back to the voters for another vote in 1994. Groff argued that voters had little information on Amendment 2 when they voted on it and that CFV conducted a misleading campaign. After much testimony and debate, the bill was killed in committee on a 4-3 vote.

Equality sponsored several special events in 1993. In February, Equality Colorado held its first annual Legislative Information Day. 45 concerned citizens were instructed on how to effectively participate in the political process.

In conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Ground Zero, Equality Colorado hosted the Fight the Right Regional Networking and Strategy Conference in Denver in March. Over 350 activists from 8 states attended workshops on media advocacy, campaign strategy, grassroots movement building and fundraising. Activists began a network to help them with their respective challenges in 1994.

To counteract Pope John Paul II's visit to Denver, Equality Colorado, and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center Youth Services sponsored a Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Youth Day at the State Capitol. Jonathan Kelley, our summer intern from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, organized the event. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and Boulder Mayor Leslie Durgin declared the day "Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Youth Day" in their respective cities. Equality also provided assistance to pro-choice advocates with the Clinic Defense Project.

In April, Equality Colorado staff members joined over one million activists in the nation's capital for the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Equal Rights and Liberation. Several individuals lobbied their members of Congress to ask them to drop the ban on gays in the military, pass a federal civil rights bill, and increase AIDS funding.

The Equality Colorado Neighborhood Committee published its first edition of "The Neighborhood Voice," an 8-page publication that discusses current issues in the gay civil rights movement. Volunteers distributed the publication door-to-door in the Denver, Evergreen, and Greeley areas.

Under the direction of staff member Chris Moore, Voices of Faith for Human Rights formed to do outreach in churches and synagogues. The inter-denominational group of citizens and ministers share a belief that a person's faith moves them toward a deeper commitment to everyone's rights.

Several community forums were also held to discuss burning topics in the community. The August forum titled "The Colorado Boycott: Vehicle or Vice" attracted over 50 participants to discuss the boycott. "The Gay Agenda," a popular piece of anti-gay propoganda, was the discussion topic for September, and in October, Equality co-hosted a town meeting with NGLTF Executive Director Peri Jude Radecic.

With the help of Louise Ninneman, a professional facilitator, the Equality Colorado transition team embarked on a three month strategic planning process to define the mission and goals of the organization. By the end of the process, the team began work on building a strong 15-member board of directors and agreed that the Equality mission should focus on promoting social justice and protecting the civil rights of all individuals through research, outreach, grassroots organizing and public awareness.

This year, Equality will focus on mobilizing the lesbian/gay/bisexual community to get involved in the political process. We will do this through extensive voter education to inform voters about the issues and candidates involved in the 1994 election and what their positions are with regards to lesbian/gay/bisexual civil rights.

We will also continue work with our standing programs, print three more newsletters, and embark on a multi-media public awareness project. As you can see, we plan on being around for quite some time. Regardless of the Amendment 2 vote, there is a lot of work we need to do. We look forward to another exciting year.

Community forums scheduled for Spring

Equality Colorado has announced its community forum topics for the next few months. All of the forums are held on the third Monday of each month from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1400 Lafayette Street in Denver. The events are free and open to the public, and are wheelchair accessible.

If you or your organization has a topic that you believe would be good for a discussion, contact our office at 839-5540 and we'll work together to make the event successful.

The following are the list of topics for the next few months:

February 21: "Doing More in '94"
Local activists will discuss organizing plans for electing gay/lesbian candidates to political office, domestic partner benefits in the workplace and current lobbying and grassroots organizing.

March 21: People with Disabilities
People involved in the disability movement will discuss their experiences with discrimination and how the lesbian/gay/bisexual community can build bridges with people with disabilities in order to strengthen both movements.

April 18: Race and Sexuality
Join in this facilitated discussion of how race and race issues are treated in the gay rights movement. Only when we discover our own uniqueness do we discover the uniqueness of others.

The Misuse of Abuse:

The truth about child molestation and sexuality

Colorado for Family Values and other civil rights opponents often link pedophilia and child sexual abuse with homosexuality in order to instill fear and hysteria amongst an electorate that knows very little about the lesbian/gay/bisexual experience. There is ongoing debate in many arenas about the veracity of these kinds of links and about strategies for dealing with the issues. It is a debate that we must examine carefully so that we understand not only the homophobia that is being perpetrated, but also the way this same argument has been used against groups of people many times before.

Throughout the history of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement, lesbians and gay men have been accused of committing a disproportionate amount of child sexual abuse, even though studies show the contrary. Studies conducted by A. Nicholas Groth and H. Jean Birnbaum, two noted psychologists who have 15 years clinical experience working with child molesters, reveal that male-male molestation is perpetrated by heterosexual men and that heterosexual men pose a greater sexual risk to underage children than does the homosexual male.

A study conducted in 1992 by Drs. Carole Jenny and Tom Roesler at Children's Hospital in Denver, CO found that a child is 100 times more likely to be molested by a family member than by a homosexual. Dr. Jenny provided this study as testimony in the Amendment 2 trial in October. In his opinion, Judge Jeffrey Bayless stated that Dr. Jenny's testimony "is more persuasive than anything presented" by the state.

It is important to note that the figures and statistics that CFV and other anti-gay groups quote are from work done by Paul Cameron, a virulent anti-gay activist who was kicked out of the American Psychological Association in 1983 for erroneously misrepresenting research data.

In the lesbian, gay and bisexual movement, we are constantly put on the defensive about this issue and feel the need to make statements about our opposition to child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of youth. The mere fact that we feel the need to respond to these attacks from the right ought to make us look at this issue even more closely. By responding, are we really defending ourselves effectively? Are we actually giving credibility to their claims by insisting that we do not support child abuse of any kind? Should we 'rise above' their attacks and refuse to participate in this ridiculous debate? The majority (if not all) of lesbian, gay and bisexual organizations would likely oppose child abuse. The majority of heterosexually oriented organizations would also likely make such a statement. What does this mean? Do other movements have to issue anti-child abuse statements? Why should we? None of the answers here are obvious. There are strategy decisions we need to make as a movement about responding to these attacks from the right.

Accusing minority groups of engaging in child sexual molestation is not a new tactic used by anti-civil rights groups to deny others their civil rights. Many groups of people have come under attack as being child abusers. This has been true for Jews, Italians and African-Americans to name a few. It has been an accusation leveled to promote hysteria and stereotyping in an effort to discredit groups of people in their quest for equal rights.

With the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities, the intent is the same. The difference is that they can often get away with it more because of the nature of what sets us apart. The reality is that we are not more likely to commit child abuse, but because of the mythology, secretiveness and ignorance about who we are, the general public often buys the accusations.

Having sex with boys has nothing to do with sexual orientation. A power dichotomy exists in a man-boy "love" scenario. A man who wishes to have sex with a boy is enacting issues of control, power and domination. Control and power have nothing to do with sexual orientation, and man-boy "love" has everything to do with use and abuse of children. The use of power, control and violence to violate the integrity, wholeness and autonomy of another human being is despicable. Individual human autonomy in sexuality is an ethical standard no one has the right to violate.

We do not suggest that sexual abuse of children is non-existent among lesbians and gay men. We cannot give the false impression that pedophilia is only a heterosexual problem. Sexual abuse happens amongst all classes and races of people, young or old, gay or non-gay, male or female. Currently there are laws specific to our state and country that protect children from sexual abuse and molestation. Our movement cannot support the illegal activity of men having sex with boys or girls, of women having sex with boys or girls, or of any other kind of child abuse. The real question is how do we deal with the accusations put out by the right with integrity and honesty and without giving credibility to campaigns of misinformation.

$55,430 a year: Is it enough?

Using wealth as a reason to deny civil rights to a group of people is not a new tactic. During the 1930s and 40s, anti-semites used this argument to deny Jews their civil rights and eventually kill them.

Right-wing extremists often cite statistics from a July 1991 article in *The Wall Street Journal* that reports the results of a nation-wide study about gay income levels conducted by Overlooked Opinions, a lesbian/gay marketing and research firm based in Chicago. The data were used to demonstrate to corporations the spending power of the lesbian/gay community and to persuade those corporations to advertise and market their products in the gay community. The study showed that gays earn an average income of $55,430 per year, that 60% are college educated. The sampling method is the main problem with the Overlooked Opinions study. Their samples were drawn from readers of gay newspapers and magazines and people who attended gay pride events. There is no reason to believe that these samples are representative of the gay population in the U.S. In fact, there are many good reasons to believe that they have oversampled highly educated and affluent people, since most readers of newspapers and magazines fall into those categories. Such a sample is called "biased," and statisticians would never use such a survey to make inferences about the lesbian/gay population.

An equivalent inference would be to survey readers of the New York Times or Time magazine and say that the average income of those readers reflects the average income of people in the U.S.

Even if the $55,430 figure were true, does it matter? One's wealth, or lack thereof, does not determine a group's worthiness of civil rights protections. A person does not escape the dagger of discrimination by obtaining wealth and education. Besides, $55,430 is not enough for this queer!

☐ **Yes!! I want to help increase Lesbian/Gay awareness and protect my rights and the civil rights of all people! Enclosed is my gift of :**

____$25 ____$50 ____$100 ____Other

☐ **I would like to volunteer my time. Please send me information on how I can help.**

☐ **Please update my mailing information. (Fill out this section only if you have moved within the last six months, or if you are receiving our mail more than once. Please help us save on postage costs.)**

Name _____

Street _____

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Thank you! Please make your checks payable to Equality Colorado and send it with this form to P.O. Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Notable Quotables

"There is a major difference between a friend and a gay person in office. It's not enough just to have friends represent us, no matter how good those friends may be. We must give people the chance to judge us by our own leaders, and our own legislators."

-Harvey Milk, slain San Francisco supervisor and first openly gay person elected to office.

"All of us who show an affirming flame are the holders of real moral power in this culture, a power that is held by all who speak Truth, practice Love, and demonstrate Courage."

-Urvashi Vaid, attorney and lesbian activist.

"If everyone was protected from discrimination by sexual orientation, then we'd all be protected and we'd all be equal!"

-CFV Chairman Will Perkins, at a press conference the day Amendment 2 was declared unconstitutional.

"People automatically assume that if you're gay friendly or have gay friends that you're gay. That's wrong."

-Bobby Ray Inman, former nominee for Secretary of Defense, on rumors that he is gay.

"If being gay is a sickness, let's all call in queer to work tomorrow. 'Sorry, can't come in today, I'm still queer.'"

-Robin Tyler, Lesbian comic.

"All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."

-Thomas Jefferson

"Each one is supposed to a seasoned major-donor fundraiser, star media spokesperson, top-notch administrator, crack fiscal manager, and sensitive and skilled community organizer all rolled into one articulate, pretty, and happily workaholic package. Who can possibly be all these things?"

-Former NGLTF Executive Director Torie Osborn, on the burden of expectations placed on gay leaders.

"If I had voted yes, I would have had to walk into my church with people saying, 'There is the man who brought homosexuality to Williamson County.'"

-Williamson County Commissioner David Hays, on why he voted against a tax package for Apple Computers to build a $80 million office complex in Round Rock, Texas. He later reversed his vote.

"I see American and European movies with gangs and people killing each other, and nobody's complaining about that, but if you play a gay character..."

-Actor Antonio Banderas, on people's perceptions of his playing a gay character in the movie *Philadelphia*.

"Peace is more than the absence of tension. It is the presence of justice."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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